XXXII.—*List of the Birds of the Canary Islands, with detailed reference to the Migratory Species and the Accidental Visitors.* Part IV. Anatidæ—Laridæ. By David A. Bannerman, M.B.E., B.A., M.B.O.U., F.R.G.S.

[Continued from p. 495.]

Family Anatidæ.

Anas platyrhynchos platyrhynchos. The Mallard.

Anas platyrhynchos Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 125—Type locality: Sweden.

The Mallard or Wild Duck is a somewhat irregular **Winter Visitor**, especially to Tenerife, and an occasional **Bird of Passage** in spring.

Webb and Berthelot considered it to be rare prior to 1841, appearing only after strong winter gales (Orn. Canarienne, p. 46). Bolle likewise found it a rare species (J. f. O. 1855, p. 179), but notes that Berthelot shot one in the pools of Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, which it especially loved to frequent (J. f. O. 1857, p. 348).

In Tenerife the Wild Duck is plentiful in wet seasons, and may be then found frequenting the overflowing ditches of the Laguna plain. Such was the case in the winter of 1890–91 as recorded by Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1893, p. 199), and again in the spring of 1901, when so much rain fell at Laguna that small lakes were formed, reeds sprang up, and a regular paradise existed for a short time, resorted to by ducks of many kinds, amongst which the most numerous species was according to von Thanner the Common Wild Duck (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431).

It is unusual in ordinary years to find the Wild Duck in the Canary Islands in any numbers, but usually a few appear every year; if they arrive in dry weather they frequent the water-tanks used for storing water.

The Wild Duck is doubtless rarely seen in the eastern Canary Islands, which are altogether too barren for their taste. Polatzek's notes (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 132) that it

appears frequently in very rainy winters probably refer to the western islands; but in this connection it must be remarked that Bolle wrote, "In the spring of 1851 I many times saw pairs of ducks on the coasts of Fuerteventura. . . . . I cannot tell what species" (J. f. O. 1855, p. 179).

Range. The Mallard breeds throughout Europe, in north Africa and the Azores, and in Asia east to Japan. In winter it is found in Africa, south to the Tropic of Cancer, and in India.

Anas angustirostris. Marbled Duck.

Anas angustirostris Ménétr. Cat. Rais. Cauc. 1832, p. 58, no. 205—Type locality: Lenkoran.

The Marbled Duck is one of the least known Ducks of the Canary Islands, and does not fall easily into any of the groups into which we are placing the rest of the Ornis. It may eventually have to be considered a partial resident as it has been known to breed in the islands, and may remain throughout the year. As nothing is known of its migratory habits I can only include it in this list as an **Occasional Visitor** which has not been known to breed since Bolle recorded the fact in 1857.

Bolle's account of its nesting is therefore of considerable interest. He wrote: "This duck, so common in Algeria, is the only one of its genus which lives in Canaria as a breeding bird. In May I saw them with their young ones in the ponds surrounded with rushes and water plants at the 'Charco'" (J. f. O. 1857, p. 348).

The bird is not recorded again until Cabrera's list was published, in which he states that he had a specimen in his collection from Laguna and cites the bird as an occasional migrant under the name of *Querquedula angustirostris* (Catálogo, p. 69).

That *A. angustirostris* still frequents the remarkable locality known as the "Charco" in Gran Canaria has been proved of late years by Major Smeed, Herr von Thanner, and myself, all on different occasions. Thanner saw the Marbled Duck there in February 1909 (Orn. Jahrb. 1910,

p. 100) and believed it bred there, but he did not find a nest nor did he get any eggs. I obtained a specimen myself in the Charco on the 24th of February, 1912 (Ibis, 1912, p. 586); while Major C. Smeed writes to me as follows: "On referring to my notes, I find it was a party of three Marbled Ducks I flushed on two consecutive days from the vegetation by the Charco at Maspalomas—the 19th and 20th March, 1914." He was of opinion that they were the same three birds.

Range. The Marbled Duck is found in Spain and Portugal, northern Africa south to the Canaries, and extends eastwards through Palestine, Persia, and the Caucasus to India, apparently also in the Seychelles.

Querquedula crecca crecca. Common Teal.

Anas crecca Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 126—Type locality: Sweden.

The Common Teal is a **Winter Visitor** to many of the islands.

It is reported by von Thanner to have bred in Fuerteventura on the strength of his having seen a young bird near Gran Tarajal. This I am inclined to doubt, as the evidence seems to me exceedingly weak (*vide* Orn. Jahrb. 1905, pp. 65, 66, et 1908, p. 213). It must, however, in fairness to von Thanner be noted that the Teal has bred in the Azores (Ibis, 1866, p. 102), and there is no apparent reason why it should not do so in the Canary Islands. The valley of Gran Tarajal is hardly the place where I should have expected to find the Teal breeding even after a wet winter. Von Thanner also noted an adult male which he did not obtain, as he hoped it might remain to breed, at Gran Tarajal (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 213).

The Teal is recorded by most ornithologists who have written on the birds of the Canary Islands.

Webb and Berthelot mention the bird first, and saw a specimen in the Canaries in February 1830 (Orn. Canarienne, p. 46). Bolle records that (according to reliable sportsmen) many used to be killed in the flooded fields

round Laguna every winter (J. f. O. 1857, p. 348). Meade-Waldo likewise speaks of them as "not very uncommon in wet winters," but did not observe them in large flocks (Ibis, 1893, p. 199).

Cabrera had several specimens from various localities in Tenerife in his collection (Catálogo, p. 68).

In the winter of 1903 Polatzek found a colony of fifteen to eighteen old and young ones in the Barranco Rio Cabras in Fuerteventura, the last of which disappeared in the middle of February (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 24).

The Common Teal appears to visit all the islands, for I saw a specimen in 1913 in the Gonzalez collection in Lanzarote which had been shot in that waterless island (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

From Gran Canaria there is a specimen in the British Museum shot by Dr. P. R. Lowe on the 22nd of November, 1907, in one of the tanks beyond the Las Palmas golf-links. If the Teal wishes to breed in the Canary Islands, there is surely no more tempting spot for its needs than the Charco of Maspalomas in the island of Gran Canaria.

Range. The Teal breeds throughout Europe and Asia, and its range in Africa extends to about lat. 5° N. It has been recorded from Madeira as well as the Canary Islands, and has been said to breed in the Azores. In winter it ranges eastwards to Japan.

Mareca penelope. Wigeon.

Anas penelope Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 126—Type locality: Sweden.

The Wigeon is a **Rare Visitor** (probably only in winter) to the Canary Islands. It has been obtained on very few occasions.

Cabrera shot two at Laguna (Catálogo, p. 68), and Meade-Waldo only saw one bird, probably one of the pair shot by Cabrera (Ibis, 1893, p. 199).

I have myself recorded a bird which had been shot in Lanzarote, and which is in the private collection of Gonzalez y Gonzalez in Arrecife (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Wigeon is widely distributed over Europe and Asia, and in winter is found in Africa as far as Abyssinia on the east coast. It does not appear to have been recorded from western Africa south of the Canary Islands. It ranges in the west to Alaska and eastwards to the Sunda Islands.

Spatula clypeata. Shoveler.

Anas clypeata Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 124—Type locality: Sweden.

The Shoveler is a **Rare Visitor**, which has been obtained certainly on one and probably on more occasions in the islands.

Meade-Waldo shot a female on one of the water-tanks near Orotava on the 18th of November, 1890 (Ibis, 1893, p. 199 and MS. note-books). The skin of this bird is now in the British Museum, where I have examined it.

Cabrera also mentions that he obtained it in Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 68).

Range. The Shoveler has an extensive distribution in the Palæarctic Region and a circumpolar breeding-range. It also breeds in North America. In winter it extends in Africa to Somaliland on the east and Senegambia on the west coast.

Nyroca nyroca. White-eyed Pochard.

Anas nyroca Güldenstädt, Nov. Comm. Petrop. xiv. pt. 1, 1770, p. 403—Type locality: S. Russia.

The White-eyed Pochard is a **Rare Visitor** to the Canary Islands.

Webb and Berthelot say that this duck is of accidental occurrence, and arrives sometimes in winter. They record two specimens which were killed in November 1829 on the beach of the Isleta in Gran Canaria (Orn. Canarienne, p. 46).

The above seems to be the only definite record concerning the White-eyed Pochard in the Canary Islands. The species is mentioned by Bolle (J. f. O. 1855, p. 179) as a "bird of

passage," and in a later paper he quotes Berthelot's note (J. f. O. 1857, p. 348).

Cabrera includes it (Catálogo, p. 69) under the name *Fuligula africana* Gmel., giving its local Spanish name, *i. e.* "pato berberisco," and remarking that it is an accidental visitor in winter. He had no specimens in his collection, and it is difficult to gather whether he observed this duck himself or whether he is merely quoting Berthelot, Bolle, and Serra, which three authors he mentions by name.

Polatzek includes it in his list as an occasional migrant in winter, but does not appear to have observed the bird personally (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 132).

Range. The White-eyed Pochard breeds in central and southern Europe, in western Asia, and in north Africa. It winters in north Africa and eastwards to India.

Nyroca ferina ferina. Common Pochard.

Anas ferina Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 126—Type locality: Sweden.

The Common Pochard is a **Rare Visitor** in winter.

It has only once been recorded, and that by Meade-Waldo, who wrote (Ibis, 1893, p. 199): "A small flock of Pochards frequented the tanks by the Botanical Gardens" [La Paz, Orotava, Tenerife]. One of these birds, a female, was secured on the 18th of February, 1889, and is now in the British Museum, where I have examined the skin.

The same birds are also recorded by Meade-Waldo in an earlier paper (Ibis, 1889, p. 515), where he mentions the three birds enumerated above, remarking that an example was shot by a Mr. Nash, the chaplain, and came into his possession. This would be the bird which is now in the National Collection.

Range. The Common Pochard breeds throughout Europe and Asia, and winters in the Mediterranean countries and in north Africa from Morocco to Egypt, extending in the east to Japan.

Œdemia nigra nigra. Common Scoter.

Anas nigra Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 123—Type locality: England.

A **Rare Visitor** to the Canary Islands.

The Common Scoter has not been observed for many years.

Bolle wrote of this species: "A regular visitor to Canaria (*i. e.* Grand Canary), where it frequents the irrigation ponds and is well known to sportsmen." He handled specimens in the Léon collection, and includes it as a more or less regular winter visitor (J. f. O. 1857, p. 348).

Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 69) and Polatzek both cite the bird in their lists, and I agree with the latter author who remarks that it is doubtful whether the Common Scoter is found still under the present conditions (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 132).

Range. The Common Scoter breeds in north Europe and Asia, and in winter visits the Atlantic shores and Mediterranean, extending as far south as the Azores and coasts of north-west Africa, where it is said to be very common.

Family Phœnicopteridæ.

Phœnicopterus antiquorum. Flamingo.

Phœnicopterus antiquorum Temm. Man. d'Orn. 2nd ed. ii. 1820, p. 587—Type locality: Europe.

The Flamingo is almost certainly a **Rare Visitor** to the Eastern Canary Group.

There can be no mistaking such a conspicuous species, and it certainly appears to have occurred. The only evidence of the occurrence of this species in the Canary Islands is given by (1) Bolle who, in his last paper, wrote that he had seen in the Léon collection in Gran Canaria a specimen of the Flamingo which had been killed in that island (J. f. O. 1857, p. 339); (2) Meade-Waldo, who discovered the remains of a dead Flamingo in the island of ? Fuerteventura, and remarked that it seemed well-known to the fishermen on the eastern islands (Ibis, 1893, p. 199).

When encamped in 1913 near the Lago Janurio, a salt lake on the south-west coast of Lanzarote, the fishermen

described a bird which occasionally came to the lake, and which could have been none other than a Flamingo (Ibis, 1914, pp. 57, 263).

Range. The Flamingo breeds in southern Europe, throughout Africa and in the Cape Verde Islands. It is not therefore surprising that examples should occasionally wander to the Canary Islands.

Family Ardeidæ.

Ardea cinerea. Heron.

Ardea cinerea Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 143—Type locality: Sweden.

A **Partial Resident** and **Bird of Passage.**

Hab. in Archipelago.

Western Group: Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera.

Eastern Group: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote.

Outer islets: Graciosa, Allegranza.

Obs. Though the Heron has not actually been recorded from Hierro in the western group or from Lobos and Montaña Clara in the outer islets, it is sure to be found on the coasts of these islands at certain times.

I have included the Heron under both the above headings, as it is resident and breeds in many of the islands of the group; but its numbers are augmented from time to time by fresh arrivals. It is also a regular Bird of Passage, passing through the Archipelago in both the spring and autumn migrations.

Some of these migrants may possibly be tempted by their resident relations to remain and breed, while it is equally possible that birds which have remained a year or two and bred in the Archipelago may, through scarcity of food or other local conditions, forsake the islands and join the migrants when they pass through.

The above is my explanation for the many conflicting statements which have been made about this species.

The Heron has been recorded from most of the islands,

and is said to breed in Tenerife, Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, and Palma.

The following notes are arranged under the headings of the various islands :—

Tenerife.

The Heron is partially resident and frequents the coasts and outlying rocks. In the winter it is often seen round the fresh-water tanks, and is recorded throughout the season by Bolle (J. f. O. 1855, p. 176) and Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1893, p. 198). Koenig saw them in the high trees of the Botanical Gardens (J. f. O. 1890, p. 453); they do not, however, breed in trees in the Canary Islands, but resort to the rocky headlands in the south of the island. Ramon Gomez is said by Koenig to have taken a nest and eggs at Adeje on the Tenerifian coast. The Heron is included by von Thanner (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431) as a regular bird of passage in Tenerife, and Meade-Waldo saw many in the island on the 25th of April and following days during the great 1890 migration (Ibis, 1890, p. 429). Godman saw a few pairs about the coast in May (Ibis, 1872, p. 221).

Gran Canaria.

Herons are perhaps more plentiful here than in any of the other islands, and as in Tenerife they frequent the rocky coasts and can be usually seen fishing on the reefs in Confital Bay. They are said to nest in the high cliffs of Guanarteme, and there I have seen, in February 1902, as many as six together on a small rock lying about 400 yards from the shore (Ibis, 1912, p. 586). Dr. P. R. Lowe noted the bird near Las Palmas on the 8th of January, 1906 (MS. note-books). In June 1912, a pair were reported to have built an enormous nest on a rock lying off the Isleta, but rough weather prevented my verifying this statement, which I have every reason to believe was correct. The real eldorado of the Heron in Gran Canaria is the "Charco" of Maspalomas (for a description of which see Ibis, 1912, p. 564). Herons have frequented this "Charco" for many years, and Webb and Berthelot record it as living there "very comfortably" (Orn. Canarienne, p. 35). Bolle considered that Herons apparently bred there (J. f. O. 1857, p. 338), but the "Charco" seems to have remained unvisited by any ornithologist until von Thanner went there in 1909 and mentions that a young bird unable to fly had been caught there the previous year (Orn. Jahrb. 1910, p. 99). It appears, however, that this story emanated from a local Spaniard and their statements are seldom very reliable. I myself spent some time camping in the "Charco" in February 1912, when I continually observed the Heron, but found no trace of an old nest (Ibis, 1912, p. 565).

Hierro.

No actual record as yet.

Palma.

Said to breed in the island by Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p 22); also noted by Koenig (J. f. O. 1890, p. 487).

Gomera.

Herons are recorded from this island by Bolle, who says (J. f. O. 1857, p. 338) that many are said to visit Gomera in winter. He was not sure of the species, but they are unlikely to be any but *A. cinerea* in this island.

Fuerteventura.

Polatzek observed it here (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 21) and I saw a bird at Toston myself in May 1913 (Ibis, 1914, p. 46). Von Thanner often saw it in the spring, and noted as many as five together in March (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 214).

Lanzarote.

Polatzek often saw it in the spring (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 21). Von Thanner saw it at Arrecife and records (Orn. Jahrb. 1913, p. 189) clutches of eggs of this bird * from Lanzarote, but not taken by himself and therefore requiring further confirmation.

Graciosa.

Polatzek often saw it here in the spring, but could hear nothing of its breeding in the island (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 21).

Allegranza.

A single bird recorded by myself (Ibis, 1914, p. 87) as frequenting the island in June 1913.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

Distributed throughout the greater part of Europe and Asia and in most parts of Africa.

Ardea purpurea purpurea. Purple Heron.

Ardea purpurea Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 236—Type locality: France.

This is a **Rare Visitor**. I can only trace one authentic record, this being a bird which was shot at Laguna and identified by both Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1889, p. 4; 1893, p. 198) and Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 62).

* Here recorded in the vernacular only—"ein grauer Reiher."

Range. The Purple Heron has a very extensive range. It breeds in south-eastern Europe and southern Asia, and is both a resident and a winter visitor in many parts of Africa. I have seen a specimen shot by Boyd Alexander in the Cape Verde Islands.

Egretta alba alba. Great White Heron.

Ardea alba Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 144—Type locality : Sweden.

The Great White Heron is a **Rare Visitor** to the islands.

It has only been observed and that only on one occasion by Cabrera, who saw a flock in Tenerife in the spring of 1889 and caught one (Catálogo, p. 62).

Range. The Great White Heron breeds in southern Europe and Asia and apparently in northern Africa. It winters in the whole of Africa.

Egretta garzetta garzetta. Little Egret.

Ardea garzetta Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 237—Type locality : "in Oriente."

The Little Egret is a **Rare Visitor** to the Archipelago.

It is first mentioned by Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, p. 35), who say that it only arrives in the Canaries quite accidentally.

Bolle records it as having been shot in the islands (J. f. O. 1855, p. 176), and Cabrera mentions it as an accidental migrant in the winter (Catálogo, p. 62).

I saw a stuffed example in the Gonzalez collection in Lanzarote, which had been shot in that island (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Little Egret breeds in southern Europe and Asia extending east to China and Japan, also throughout Africa.

Ardeola ibis ibis. Buff-backed Heron.

Ardea ibis Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 144—Type locality : Egypt.

This bird can only be reckoned as a **Rare Visitor**.

Meade-Waldo is again responsible for the identification; he saw three birds in the winter in Tenerife, "two alive and one that had just been shot" (Ibis, 1889, p. 4). He recorded it in his list (Ibis, 1893, p. 198) as an "occasional straggler," but as it has not been noted since can only be included here as a rare visitor.

Range. The Buff-backed Heron is found in southern Europe, south-west Asia, and throughout Africa; its occurrence in oceanic islands can only be put down to chance.

Ardeola ralloides ralloides. Squacco Heron.

Ardea ralloides Scopoli, Annus I. Hist. Nat. 1769, p. 88 —Type locality: Carniola.

The Squacco Heron, like the last-mentioned species (*A. i. ibis*), is a **Rare Visitor** to the islands, but has been recorded on more occasions than the Buff-backed Heron.

It is mentioned in 1841 by Webb and Berthelot as "De passage accidentel" (Orn. Canarienne, p. 36). Bolle records having seen a specimen in the Léon collection in Gran Canaria (J. f. O. 1857, p. 338). Cabrera in 1893 (Catálogo, p. 62) records shooting two males near Laguna: and Meade-Waldo likewise mentions it as an "occasional straggler" to Tenerife (Ibis, 1893, p. 198), and shot a specimen at Orotava on the 7th of July, 1890, which I have examined in the British Museum collection.

Range. The Squacco Heron is an inhabitant of the Mediterranean countries, extending to the Caspian Sea in southern Europe. It is also resident throughout Africa. Its occurrence in the Canary and Azores Archipelagoes is probably occasioned by exceptional weather conditions.

Ixobrychus minutus minutus. Little Bittern.

Ardea minuta Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 240—Type locality: Switzerland.

The Little Bittern is another **Rare Visitor** to the islands,

but probably occurs rather more plentifully than the other members of this family.

It is first mentioned by Bolle, who wrote that a specimen of the Little Bittern had been killed in Gran Canaria, being, as he stated, a new record for the island (J. f. O. 1857, p. 338).

It was next noticed by Meade-Waldo, who remarked that "a Little Bittern was caught alive in Puerto Orotava in 1890," and he kept it in confinement for some time (Ibis, 1893, p. 198).

Cabrera had a male in his collection which had been caught in spring (Catálogo, p. 62).

I saw and identified a specimen in the Gonzalez collection in Arrecife, and was told by the collector that he had obtained the bird in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Little Bittern breeds in southern Europe and in north Africa, parts of Asia and India. It migrates to Africa in winter, and has been recorded from the Azores and Madeira as well as the Canaries.

Nycticorax nycticorax nycticorax. Night Heron.

Ardea nycticorax Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 142 —Type locality : S. Europe.

The Night Heron is a **Rare Visitor** to the islands.

Webb and Berthelot recorded it as an accidental migrant (Orn. Canarienne, p. 36) and Bolle also mentions (possibly on the authority of Webb and Berthelot only) that it had been killed in the Canary group (J. f. O. 1855, p. 176).

Cabrera shot a specimen in Tenerife at Laguna and notes that there is another male specimen in the Laguna Instituto from the same locality (Catálogo, p. 63).

Meade-Waldo was able to examine the specimen shot by Cabrera and his identification can be taken as perfectly correct. He saw one which had been shot at Laguna (Ibis, 1893, p. 198).

Range. The Night Heron breeds in central and southern Europe, in temperate Asia, and throughout Africa where it

is very plentiful. There are two skins in the British Museum from the Azores.

Botaurus stellaris. Bittern.

Ardea stellaris Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 144—Type locality : Sweden.

The Bittern is a **Rare Visitor.** Very few records are forthcoming.

Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, p. 36) and later Bolle (J. f. O. 1855, p. 176) mention it in their lists as an accidental wanderer.

Meade-Waldo saw one which had been killed at Laguna and heard of another (Ibis, 1893, p. 199).

Cabrera shot one at Laguna (Catálogo, p. 63) which was in his collection, and is doubtless the bird Meade-Waldo saw.

Range. The Common Bittern breeds throughout Europe south of 60° N. lat., and extends across Asia to Japan, the birds from the higher latitudes migrating south in winter to north Africa. It has been recorded once from the Azores.

Botaurus lentiginosus. American Bittern.

Ardea lentiginosa Montagu, Suppl. to Ornith. Dict. 1813 [no pagination]—Type locality : Dorset, England.

This is a **Rare Visitor.**

Cabrera had a specimen in his collection killed at the Madre del Agua near Laguna (Catálogo, p. 63). Probably this same bird is recorded by Polatzek as having been found dead near Laguna in Tenerife; he adds that it is now in the museum there (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 129).

Range. The American Bittern inhabits North America; about forty examples have been procured in the British Isles, from which curiously enough the type specimen was originally described. In winter it ranges to the West Indies and central America.

Single examples have been procured in the Azores and in Guernsey.

Ardeirallus sturmi. Sturm's Bittern.

Ardea sturmi Wagler, Syst. Av. i. 1827, species no. 37—Type locality: Senegambia.

This is evidently a very **Rare Visitor** to the Archipelago.

From literature it appears that it has only once been obtained and then by Cabrera at Laguna, Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 62).

The bird, a male, was identified by Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1890, p. 430, 1893, p. 198) and is also mentioned by Polatzek, who probably examined the skin (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 129).

Range. Sturm's Bittern is an African species found commonly on many parts of the west coast. It is numerous in tropical Africa from Senegal south to Damaraland and Natal.

Family Ciconiidæ.

Ciconia ciconia ciconia. White Stork.

Ardea ciconia Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 142—Type locality: Sweden.

The White Stork is an **Occasional Visitor.** It has been seen passing through sometimes in large numbers.

It is recorded in 1841 by Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, p. 36) and by Bolle (J. f. O. 1855, p. 176) as occurring occasionally, the last-named observer remarking that the country people knew it well. In his later paper (J. f. O. 1857, p. 338) he notes that "when Berthelot and Webb were in Lanzarote they saw a great flock of Storks arrive—a phenomenon which takes place from time to time—several were killed."

The next record is by Meade-Waldo, who remarks that "sixteen White Storks frequented the plains of Laguna in the winter of 1890–1891, four of which were shot" (Ibis, 1893, p. 199).

Cabrera noted the same "flock" and remarks that it is a migrant which more frequently occurs in the eastern than in the western group (Catálogo, p. 63).

Polatzek apparently did not see any during his residence in the islands; but von Thanner saw one on the 16th of March, 1905, in Fuerteventura (apparently near Jandia), which is the last record I have of its occurrence (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 214).

Range. The White Stork breeds in Europe, Asia, and in Africa, where it is found from Morocco to the Gold Coast, wintering in southern and central Africa.

Family Plataleidæ.

Platalea leucorodia. Spoonbill.

Platalea leucorodia Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 139 —Type locality: Sweden.

The Spoonbill is an **Occasional Visitor.**

It was noted by Webb and Berthelot in 1841 as appearing in the winter after a gale, never in any numbers and never remaining for long. They record one which alighted near Santa Cruz, Tenerife, in the winter of 1826 (Orn. Canarienne, p. 37).

Bolle wrote that the Spoonbill was only a migratory bird, but as such came frequently to the Canary Islands. He remarks that it was often killed in Gran Canaria, where the steward of the Condé de Vega Grandé often noticed them at the ponds of Arguineguin (J. f. O. 1857, p. 339). Bolle never saw the bird himself.

Viera records it from the same district in his Dictionario.

Meade-Waldo noted that the bird had been killed in Tenerife, and was told that in Fuerteventura it visited the shores in small flocks, especially the coast by Toston (Ibis, 1893, p. 199).

Cabrera saw three specimens which had been caught in Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 63).

I have identified two specimens which have not been mentioned by anyone else:—

A bird in the Las Palmas Museum labelled "Puerto de Luz, 21st October, 1880" (*vide* Ibis, 1912, p. 627), and

another specimen in the Gonzalez collection at Arrecife, Lanzarote, shot near that town by Gonzalez himself (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

The last record is that by von Thanner, who saw a bird* on the 13th of May, 1913, at Orsola, Lanzarote (Orn. Jahrb. 1913, p. 189).

Range. The Spoonbill breeds locally in Europe, extending eastwards through Asia to Japan. It is resident in northern and eastern Africa, visiting tropical Africa in winter. It has been recorded from Madeira and the Azores in addition to the Canary Islands.

Family Otididæ.

Otis tetrax. Little Bustard.

Otis tetrax Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 154—Type locality : France.

A **Rare Visitor** to the islands.

Von Thanner, in his paper† entitled "Game and hunting in the Canaries" (Deutsche Jäger-Zeitung, Bd. 61, no. 36, p. 15), notes that there are several Dwarf Bustards (Zwergtrappen) in the Institute at Laguna. He does not here note by whom or when or where they were obtained ; however, in a letter to Dr. Hartert, dated 27/10/18, von Thanner again refers to these birds and remarks " . . . . about seven years ago" [this would be about 1911] " were killed near Laguna three specimens of *Otis tetrax* Linn. They were skinned for the Instituto de la Laguna, but nobody knows the day and year."

Range. The Little Bustard breeds in Europe, western Asia, and north Africa north of the Atlas Mountains. It visits northern Africa on migration, and also ranges eastwards to India.

* Here recorded in the German vernacular only—"Loffelreiher."

† No date is given on this publication, of which I received a separate reprint from the author, I think in 1914. I have not as yet been able to trace the date of publication anywhere.

Chlamydotis undulata fuerteventuræ. Fuerteventuran Bustard.

Otis undulata fuerteventuræ Rothsch. & Hart. Nov. Zool. i. 1894, p. 689—Type locality: Fuerteventura.

A **Resident** subspecies.

Hab. in Archipelago.

Eastern Group: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote.

Obs. It is a rare breeding bird in Lanzarote and used to occur on the south-eastern plains of Gran Canaria as a visitor. It has not been noted in the latter island for many years.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

Does not occur.

Family Œdicnemidæ.

Œdicnemus œdicnemus insularum. Eastern Canarian Thickknee.

Œdicnemus œdicnemus insularum Sassi, Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 32—Type locality: Fuerteventura and Lanzarote.

A **Resident** subspecies.

Hab. in Archipelago.

Eastern Group: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote.

Outer islets: Graciosa, Allegranza.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

Does not occur.

Œdicnemus * œdicnemus distinctus. Western Canarian Thickknee.

Œdicnemus œdicnemus distinctus Bannerman, Ibis, 1914, p. 277—Type locality: Gran Canaria.

A **Resident** subspecies.

Hab. in Archipelago.

Western Group: Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, Hierro.

* There is a skin of an *Œdicnemus* in the British Museum from Tenerife which agrees with specimens from Egypt, and cannot be assigned to either of the insular forms (*cf.* Ibis, 1914, p. 276, footnote).

Obs. I have no specific record of the bird from Palma or Gomera, but Meade-Waldo says the Thickknee occurs in "all the islands" of the Archipelago.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

Does not occur.

Family Cursoriidæ.

Cursorius gallicus gallicus. Cream-coloured Courser.

Charadrius gallicus Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, 1789, p. 692—Type locality: France.

A **Resident** species.

Hab. in Archipelago.

Western Group: Gran Canaria, Tenerife.

Eastern Group: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote.

Outer islets: Graciosa*.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

The Cream-coloured Courser inhabits southern Europe and parts of Asia. Its true home, however, is northern Africa, where it ranges from Morocco to the Red Sea. It also occurs in the Cape Verde Islands.

Obs. There is no evidence in support of Bolle's theory that the Courser is a migratory species in the Canaries. Bolle wrote (J. f. O. 1855, p. 175): "These birds appear in Fuerteventura first towards the end of May or the beginning of June, and are numerous; earlier one sees hardly any, they must therefore return very late from their migration."

In his last paper (J. f. O. 1857, p. 266) he again includes *C. gallicus* as a migratory species, but with a query.

This is contrary to the observations of all recent ornithologists, Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1893, p. 203), Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 17), etc., and I believe *C. g. gallicus* to be a resident non-migratory species in the Canary Islands.

* Recorded from this island by von Thanner (Orn. Jahrb. xxiv. 1913, p. 191); they do not nest on Graciosa.

Family Glareolidæ.

Glareola pratincola pratincola. Collared Pratincole.

Hirundo pratincola Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 345 —Type locality: Austria.

The Collared Pratincole must be termed an **Occasional Visitor**, as it cannot be said to occur regularly in the islands. It is distinctly a rare bird in the western islands and has been recorded on two occasions only from Tenerife.

(*a*) Meade-Waldo during his stay from October 1887 to June 1891 saw only three birds (Ibis, 1889, p. 4; 1893, p. 202).

(*b*) Cabrera shot a single specimen in the spring of 1889 in the Barranco de la Montaña de Guerra (Catálogo, p. 55).

I am inclined to believe the Collared Pratincole occurs more often than is generally supposed in the eastern group, but I have the following records only:—

(*c*) Polatzek "saw some on migration in Fuerteventura" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 127).

(*d*) Von Thanner records one of four which was killed at Arrecife, Lanzarote, on the 7th of May, 1913 (Orn. Jahrb. 1913, p. 189).

(*a*) A specimen (identified by myself) in the Gonzalez collection at Arrecife, which had been shot close to that town (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

(*f*) Two birds (♂ ♀ with sexual organs small) shot by myself near Arrecife, Lanzarote, on the wide plain bounded by the sea, south of the town. This was on the 22nd of May, 1913, and a very high wind was blowing at the time (Ibis, 1914, pp. 58, 279).

Range. The Collared Pratincole inhabits the countries of southern Europe, extending eastwards to India. It migrates southwards, wintering in Africa.

to what extent they are migratory, but we never saw the slightest evidence of an arrival of Woodcocks." Other authors, Bolle, Polatzek, and von Thanner, keep silent on this all-important point, the truth being that there are no ornithologists living on Palma and Gomera who could settle the question for us.

Woodcocks from the Canaries, Madeira, and the Azores are indistinguishable from British examples. They are not smaller in size as has been suggested.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

The Woodcock breeds throughout a great part of Europe and Asia, visiting the Mediterranean countries and north-west Africa in winter, ranging as far south on the mainland as the Atlas Mountains. It is resident in the Azores and in Madeira as well as the Canaries; this appears to be the limit of its southern range.

So far as I am aware it has never been recorded on the African continent from south of the Atlas Mountains.

Gallinago gallinago gallinago. Common Snipe.

Scolopax gallinago Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 147 —Type locality: Sweden.

The Common Snipe is a **Winter Visitor** to certain of the islands and a **Bird of Passage** in spring and autumn, sometimes in large numbers.

The Snipe is first mentioned from Tenerife by Ledru in 1810. A confusion of names has taken place, amongst the old writers, between the Common and the "Jack" Snipe. Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, p. 39) and Bolle (in his first paper—J. f. O. 1855, p. 177) have referred in their works to *Scolopax gallinula*, *i. e.* the "Jack," but Bolle, in his final paper (J. f. O. 1858, p. 227), corrects his mistake and says his notes should refer to the Common Snipe. Webb and Berthelot, who had fallen into the same error (Orn. Canarienne, p. 39), recorded the Snipe there as a migrant arriving in fairly large numbers towards the autumn and passing the winter in marshy places, specially mentioning the Laguna plains and the streams which run through the

Mercedes woods. Bolle's notes are to the same effect (J.f.O. 1855, p. 177). These observations cover the period between the years 1810–1857.

Next it is mentioned by Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 58), who for many years had studied the birds of Tenerife and published his "list" in 1893, as a regular winter migrant. Meade-Waldo found it a regular winter visitor to Tenerife but in irregular numbers, sometimes very numerous about Laguna (Ibis, 1893, p. 204); he also observed it in Fuerteventura (Ibis, 1889, p. 509), and saw a bird in Tenerife on 21 November, 1888 (MS. diaries). Von Thanner, who has resided for a number of years in Tenerife, gives the following account (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431) of the migrations of the Snipe in that island:—"In the spring of the year 1901 there was such a continuous heavy rain that the ditches of the Laguna plain overflowed and in many places formed lakes. This district with its accompanying reeds attracted large numbers of Snipe (*G. gallinago*). Single examples of these appear every year, but in such numbers only in particularly wet years. In my opinion these solitary migrants are only single individuals of a large flight which stay a longer or shorter time according to the conditions which they find."

All the above notes refer to the migration of the Snipe in the island of Tenerife.

Records from the other islands are not so numerous, as undoubtedly the character of the country, especially in the eastern group, is mostly unsuitable. There is one district, however, in Gran Canaria where the Snipe can find a happy feeding-ground, in the "Charco" of Maspalomas, which is fully described in 'The Ibis,' 1912, p. 564; here I have shot the Common Snipe in February (Ibis, 1912, p. 565), and doubtless whenever a flight passes through this island a few would be found there.

In the eastern islands the Snipe has been observed by Polatzek, who writes:—"*Gallinago gallinago* is a regular, often frequent, bird of passage. I found it in Fuerteventura from February until the beginning of March as a winter

visitor in the water-courses of the barrancos" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 130). Meade-Waldo shot the Snipe on the 28th of February in Fuerteventura, and von Thanner records it from this island on the 23rd of March, 1904, "on migration" (Orn. Jahrb. 1905, p. 65). In 1913 I examined a stuffed specimen in the island of Lanzarote, which had recently been shot there, this being the only record from that island which I can trace (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Common Snipe breeds in Europe and Asia and visits Africa in winter, extending on the west coast as far as Senegambia. It sometimes remains to breed on the north-west coast and nests in small numbers in the Azores. Up till the present there is no instance known of its having bred in the Canary Islands.

Gallinago media. Great Snipe.

Scolopax media Latham, Gen. Synop. Suppl. i. 1787, p. 292—Type locality: England.

The Great Snipe is a very **Rare Visitor** which has only been noticed once in the Canaries.

Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 58) notes that it is an extremely rare bird of passage which has occurred accidentally. He had an example in his collection which was obtained at Laguna.

Cabrera does not confuse it with the Common Snipe or the "Jack," as he mentions all three in his Catalogue. I think I am therefore justified in including the species in the list of authentic rare visitors.

Range. The Great Snipe breeds in northern Europe and Asia. It winters in the Mediterranean basin and Africa, ranging south to Cape Colony.

Limnocryptes gallinula. Jack Snipe.

Scolopax gallinula Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 244—Type locality: France.

The Jack Snipe is a **Bird of Passage** in the Canary Islands, but is much rarer than the Common Snipe.

It is probable that a few individuals pass through the

islands every year, but although records are so scarce I hesitate to include it with the Occasional Migrants.

Polatzek writes concerning this species (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 130) :—"It appears pretty regularly but not nearly so frequently as the Common Snipe, it stays more in the locality of woods or bushes. On the 4th of November, 1902, at Moya in Grand Canary I shot a fine male which is in Tschusi's collection at Hallein."

Cabrera also includes the Jack Snipe in his list (Catálogo, p. 58) and remarks:—"It is less frequent than the Common Snipe; without doubt it arrives before the others, remaining close to the mountains. In my collection there are many males caught in the mountains of Mercèdes" (Tenerife).

Von Thanner records (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 208) having seen two *G. gallinula* in the island of Palma between January and the 18th of February, "probably migrants resting."

Older writers, Bolle, Webb, and Berthelot, etc., confused the Jack with the Common Snipe, as explained by Bolle in J. f. O. 1858, p. 227.

Range. The Jack Snipe breeds in the north of Europe and Asia and in the winter visits the Mediterranean countries and northern Africa, extending as far south on the east coast as Abyssinia. Its migrations on the west coast of Africa are little understood. In the east it ranges to India in winter.

Hæmatopus niger meadewaldoi. Meade-Waldo's Black Oystercatcher.

Hæmatopus niger meadewaldoi Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xxxi. 1913, p. 33—Type locality : Fuerteventura.

A **Resident** subspecies.

Hab. in the Archipelago.

Eastern Group : Fuerteventura, Lanzarote.

Outer islets : Graciosa, Montaña Clara, Allegranza, Roque del Oueste, Roque del Este.

Obs. I consider that this rare Oystercatcher cannot be

classed as a migrant, and must be included with the Resident Birds only.

Curiously enough its eggs have never been found in the Canaries, and the bird has never been recorded from anywhere else. Meade-Waldo shot two birds in Graciosa which he considered were a breeding pair (Ibis, 1890, p. 437), and a female which he shot in Fuerteventura contained well-developed eggs (Ibis, 1889, p. 13).

Von Thanner believes that the bird is migratory, and was told by the fishermen that it came to the islands in June (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 213, and 1913, p. 192).

It is certainly a remarkably rare bird, and if it is confined to the Canary Archipelago will not be long before it is entirely extinct. It must be remembered, however, that the opposite coast-line of Africa is quite unknown from an ornithological point of view; and it may possibly be a genuine migrant (a Summer Visitor) after all. As, however, there is up till now absolutely no direct evidence that migration takes place, save between the islands of the Eastern Group, I prefer to treat it as a purely Resident Bird and not even as a Partial Resident. I have only once seen it myself (Ibis, 1914, pp. 279–282).

Range beyond the Archipelago.

Unknown, possibly does not occur.

Tringa minuta minuta. Little Stint.

Tringa minuta Leisler, Nachträge zu Bechst. Naturg. Deutschl. 1812, p. 74—Type locality: near Hanau, Germany.

An **Occasional Visitor**.

The Little Stint is one of the rarest of the Waders which occasionally visit the islands on migration. It cannot be reckoned a Regular Bird of Passage.

Meade-Waldo notes that it is occasionally met with on migration (Ibis, 1893, p. 205). His observations were doubtless made in Tenerife; while Polatzek noted it only during the autumn migration (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131), probably in the eastern islands.

Range. The Little Stint breeds in the Arctic regions of Europe and Siberia, and in winter visits South Africa, Arabia, India, and Ceylon.

Tringa alpina alpina. Dunlin.

Tringa alpina Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 149—Type locality: Lapland.

The Dunlin is a **Bird of Passage** usually observed in the Canary Islands between February and June.

The notes which Webb and Berthelot published concerning *T. variabilis* (which can only be the Dunlin) must certainly refer to another species, probably to the Kentish Plover, for these authors say, "... It appears sedentary, we are certain that it nests there because one of us found in July near Arrecife many very young specimens hardly covered with feathers" (Orn. Canarienne, p. 38).

The Dunlin is in reality a migrant to the islands, sometimes being numerous.

Meade-Waldo found them in large flocks on 25 April and following days (1890) in Tenerife, and on the 7th of April noted them in Graciosa (MS. diaries). He considered them to be "occasionally numerous" on migration, rarer in the eastern islands (Ibis, 1893, p. 204). Polatzek also records them from the eastern islands, where they were often obtained on passage (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131). I have seen them and obtained specimens at Maspalomas in Gran Canaria as early as the 23rd of February (Ibis, 1912, p. 581), and again in the eastern group in May and June (Ibis, 1911, pp. 46, 57, 71, 285), *i.e.*, sparingly on the reefs at Toston in Fuerteventura (May 6–10), by the Lago Janurio in Lanzarote (May 19–22), and in the island of Graciosa (May 27 to June 7). Wherever met with, they were always in very small numbers. One example had assumed breeding-plumage and had the testes fairly large. Dunlins do not frequent any particular part of the coast for long, and I do not think any remain in the island during the summer.

Range. The Dunlin breeds in northern Europe and is

stated to have been found nesting as far south as Spain. In winter it visits India and Africa, reaching Zanzibar on the east coast.

Tringa ferruginea ferruginea. Curlew Sandpiper.

Tringa ferruginea Brünnich, Orn. Borealis, 1764, p. 53—Type locality: Iceland.

The Curlew Sandpiper is an **Occasional Visitor** to the islands during migration.

I have never met with it myself, but Meade-Waldo records that many of these birds arrived in beautiful full breeding-plumage in Tenerife in May 1891 (Ibis, 1893, p. 205), and the previous year he saw a number at the water-tanks on 25 April and following days (MS. diaries).

Cabrera had specimens in his collection from Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 59); and Polatzek in more recent years found it to be an irregular migrant, and records it from the eastern islands (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131).

I should not be surprised to find that the Curlew Sandpiper is a regular Bird of Passage occurring every year in the islands.

Range. The Curlew Sandpiper breeds in Arctic Siberia and in winter visits the Mediterranean basin and Africa, extending to the Cape; ranging also to India, the Malay regions, and Australia.

Calidris arenaria. Sanderling.

Tringa arenaria Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 251—Type locality: England.

The Sanderling is a **Bird of Passage** to the Canary Islands.

Meade-Waldo saw Sanderlings in large flocks in the eastern islands and on migration everywhere (Ibis, 1893, p. 205), specifying the 31st of March and the 6th of April on which he observed these birds in Fuerteventura (MS. diaries). Cabrera shot specimens in Tenerife and considered it an occasional migrant (Catálogo, p. 58).

During my expedition to the Eastern Group in May and

June I was surprised not to meet with the Sanderling on any of the islands which I visited: doubtless I was too late in the year. I found a stuffed specimen in a collection in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63). In Gran Canaria in February, 1912, Sanderlings were passing along the coast, and I obtained specimens at Maspalomas on the 24th, 27th, and 29th of that month. The birds were in small flocks at the mouth of the Charco (Ibis, 1912, p. 581). I have never seen them in the north of this island.

Range. The Sanderling breeds in Arctic America and on the Siberian coast. It winters in Africa, south to the Cape, and ranges throughout the greater part of the world, visiting southern Asia, America, and Australia.

Machetes pugnax. Ruff.

Tringa pugnax Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 148—Type locality: Sweden.

The Ruff is a **Bird of Passage.**

It cannot be said to be numerous, in fact it is one of the rarer Waders which I believe to be a regular migrant through the islands.

The records are meagre in the extreme, and it would perhaps have been wiser to include the Ruff in the list of Occasional Visitors. Competent observers are rare in the Canary Islands, and as Meade-Waldo and Polatzek both considered the Ruff to be a regular visitor, and as the observations of these ornithologists jointly cover a number of years, with a considerable period between them, I feel justified in placing the Ruff under this heading.

Meade-Waldo found it "not numerous, but pretty regular," especially on the Laguna plains after a heavy fall of rain (Ibis, 1893, p. 205), and shot a specimen on the 21st of February (MS. diaries).

Cabrera obtained specimens near Laguna (Catálogo, p. 59).

Polatzek remarks (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131) that it "appears often on its passage through, including the eastern islands."

Von Thanner shot a male in Fuerteventura on the

28th of February, 1910 (Orn. Jahrb. 1910, p. 229), and I have seen a stuffed example in Lanzarote which had been obtained there (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Ruff breeds in Europe and western Asia, and in winter visits Africa as far south as Cape Colony, ranging also to India.

Totanus totanus. Redshank.

Scolopax totanus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 145—Type locality: Sweden.

The Redshank is an **Occasional Visitor** to the Canary Islands.

Records of this species are scarce. It is first mentioned by Bolle, who saw a specimen in the Léon collection in Gran Canaria (J. f. O. 1857, p. 337).

Meade-Waldo says it is "occasionally met with" (Ibis, 1893, p. 205), and notes that it was fairly common at Orotava, Tenerife, between the 23rd and 25th of October (MS. diaries).

I saw a mounted example in the Gonzalez collection in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63), and observed a specimen on the Teston reefs in Fuerteventura between the 6th and 10th of May (Ibis, 1914, pp. 46, 285).

Polatzek did not know of any specimens, but "believes he saw it in Lanzarote" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131).

The Redshank would certainly appear to be one of the rarest of the Waders which occasionally touch the islands on migration.

Range. The Redshank breeds throughout Europe and the Mediterranean countries and in Asia. In winter it ranges to Cape Colony, and occurs in India eastwards to Japan.

Totanus nebularius. Greenshank.

Scolopax nebularius Gunnerus in Leem, Beskr. Finm. Lapp. 1767, p. 251—Type locality: Norway.

An **Occasional Visitor.**

The Greenshank has been recorded under a variety of names by several writers.

Meade-Waldo saw many in Tenerife during the great migration in April 1890, "on the 25th and following days" (MS. diaries). He considers it a more regular visitor than *Totanus totanus, Totanus glareola*, or *Totanus ochropus* (Ibis, 1893, p. 205).

Cabrera himself shot various specimens in the neighbourhood of Laguna (Catálogo, p. 59).

In the Eastern Group Polatzek considered the Greenshank to be an irregular bird of passage, and mentions it from Lanzarote (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131).

I have only met with this species once myself on the island of Graciosa in the first week in June 1913 (Ibis, 1914, p. 72). I thought I saw it on one other occasion in February 1912, in Gran Canaria near Maspalomas (Ibis, 1912, p. 582).

Range. The Greenshank breeds in northern Europe and Asia, wintering in Africa as far as Cape Colony, also eastward to Japan and Australia.

Totanus hypoleucus. Common Sandpiper.

Tringa hypoleucos Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 149 —Type locality: Sweden.

The Common Sandpiper is a **Winter Visitor** to the Archipelago, a few remaining in the western islands throughout the summer.

I almost included this species as a Partial Resident, for it is apparently found in the Archipelago during every month of the year, but it has not yet been known to breed. Migration to and from the Archipelago undoubtedly takes place, and a few birds certainly remain throughout the year in the islands of Gran Canaria and Tenerife.

Webb and Berthelot record it from Gran Canaria, Lanzarote, and Graciosa, and say it is a migrant arriving in the winter (Orn. Canarienne, p. 38).

Godman believed that it probably bred in Tenerife (Ibis, 1872, p. 221), and Meade-Waldo observed "there are some of these Sandpipers about all the year round; a few probably breed" (Ibis, 1893, p. 205).

Von Thanner, on the other hand, includes it only as a regular bird of passage (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431), but this ornithologist has paid less attention to the migrations of the Charadriidæ than to the land birds of the Archipelago.

Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131) and Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 59) agree that it is a common species in winter and almost throughout the year, the former observer seeing them in the eastern islands until the spring.

Miss Annie Jackson noted the Common Sandpiper in Tenerife on the 4th of April at Orotava, and wrote to me that all had vanished by the 10th, which points to these having been passing migrants.

In Gran Canaria I have seen the Common Sandpiper in every month from December to April inclusive, and should not be at all surprised to find they breed in the Charco of Maspalomas (Ibis, 1912, p. 581).

I met with this species during my expedition in the eastern group only on the Toston reefs in Fuerteventura between the 6th and 10th of May, 1913 (Ibis, 1914, pp. 46, 285).

Range. The Common Sandpiper breeds throughout Europe, and in winter visits southern Africa, southern Asia east to Japan, also ranging to Australia and Tasmania.

Totanus ochropus. Green Sandpiper.

Tringa ocrophus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 149—Type locality: Sweden.

The Green Sandpiper is an **Occasional Visitor.**

Meade-Waldo saw very few during his stay in the islands (Ibis, 1893, p. 205). In Tenerife Cabrera obtained it several times (Catálogo, p. 59).

Polatzek believed it to be a regular migrant to both the eastern and western groups, in which he will very possibly prove to be correct (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131).

Von Thanner records two birds in Fuerteventura on the 23rd of March, 1904 (Orn. Jahrb. 1905, p. 65), and two on the 16th of March, 1905 (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 214).

Range. The Green Sandpiper breeds in northern Europe and Asia, and in winter extends to South Africa and India, ranging eastward to Japan.

Totanus glareola. Wood-Sandpiper.

Tringa glareola Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 149—Type locality: Sweden.

An **Occasional Visitor** during migration.

The Wood-Sandpiper is said by Meade-Waldo to occur more frequently than the Green Sandpiper (Ibis, 1893, p. 205). His observations doubtless refer to Tenerife.

Polatzek records it (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 131) from both Fuerteventura and Lanzarote (Arrecife); while von Thanner records two birds from Fuerteventura on the 23rd of March, 1904 (Orn. Jahrb. 1905, p. 65).

Range. The Wood-Sandpiper breeds in northern Europe and Asia, wintering in Africa southward to the Cape, in the Mediterranean countries, and eastward to Japan and Australia.

Limosa limosa limosa. Black-tailed Godwit.

Scolopax limosa Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 147—Type locality: Sweden.

The Black-tailed Godwit is a somewhat irregular **Winter Visitor**, rarely met with in any of the islands.

It is first mentioned from Tenerife in 1810 by Ledru, and most students of Canarian ornithology have observed it in the winter months.

Webb and Berthelot record it from Tenerife in January, where they say a specimen was obtained on the south coast near Montaña Reja (Orn. Canarienne, p. 38).

Cabrera found it "frequent in certain winters in the neighbourhood of Laguna" (Catálogo, p. 57); and Meade-Waldo records seeing it occasionally in flocks in the same locality (Ibis, 1893, p. 205).

In February 1911 I saw what I took to be a Black-tailed Godwit on the beach of Maspalomas in Gran Canaria (Ibis, 1912, p. 582).

It has also been recorded from the eastern group by Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 130), who found it numerous during some winters and procured a specimen at Gran Tarajal in Fuerteventura. He also records that he often saw it in Lanzarote, where I have seen a stuffed example at Arrecife in 1913 (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Von Thanner shot a female on the 23rd of February, 1910, in Fuerteventura (Orn. Jahrb. 1910, p. 229).

Range. The Black-tailed Godwit breeds in northern and central Europe and in winter wanders to the Mediterranean basin, Abyssinia, the Azores and Madeira, and in the east to India and Ceylon.

Limosa lapponica lapponica. Bar-tailed Godwit.

Scolopax lapponica Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 147 —Type locality : Lapland.

The Bar-tailed Godwit is an **Occasional Visitor** to the Canary Islands.

It is recorded from Tenerife and Gran Canaria by Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, p. 38). Cabrera obtained it on two occasions in the winter, presumably at Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 58) ; and Meade-Waldo notes that he only met with this species once (Ibis, 1893, p. 205).

In the eastern group Polatzek shot one in Fuerteventura and saw this Godwit several times at Arrecife (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 130), where I examined one in the Gonzalez local collection in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63). Unlike many of the Waders which I have termed "Occasional Visitors," I do not think the Bar-tailed Godwit will ever prove to be a regular Bird of Passage through the Canary Islands.

Range. The Bar-tailed Godwit breeds in northern Europe and Asia, and in winter visits the Mediterranean basin and Africa, ranging south to Senegambia on the west coast. In the east it extends to the mouth of the Indus.

Numenius arquata arquata. Curlew.

Scolopax arquata Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 145 —Type locality : Sweden.

An **Occasional Visitor** in the western islands; more frequent in the eastern islands.

The above summarizes the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Meade-Waldo twenty-five years ago (Ibis, 1893, p. 205), to which I have little to add. I am quite unable to determine the correct status of the Curlew in the Canary Islands.

I have never seen the Curlew in Gran Canaria and only met with it twice during my expedition to the Eastern Group, once on the Toston reefs in the second week of May (Ibis, 1914, p. 46), and again on Graciosa I flushed four birds early in June (Ibis, 1914, p. 72).

Polatzek does not appear to have seen it at all, as he simply quotes Cabrera's note (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 21) to the effect that the Curlew is met with accidentally in the Canaries and is more common in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, though he had in his collection a specimen obtained in spring in Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 57).

Von Thanner watched a pair in Tenerife from the 14th of June, 1904, for several days (Orn. Jahrb. 1905, p. 212), and this ornithologist believed that he had established the Curlew as a breeding bird in Fuerteventura (Orn. Jahrb. 1908, p. 213). His evidence was not by any means satisfactory and rested on the fact that a broken egg —believed to belong to the species—had been found in the Matas Blancas in southern Fuerteventura by a Spaniard living there, who showed the broken egg-shell to von Thanner. If Herr von Thanner can supply further unmistakable evidence that the Curlew does breed in the Canary Islands, he will have made a discovery of considerable interest. From Polatzek's remarks (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 21) it seems that this ornithologist doubted whether the broken egg-shell shown to von Thanner was that of *N. phæopus* or *N. a. arquata*.

From the above notes it will be seen that very little is known about the Curlew in these islands. If it is a regular winter visitor it would assuredly have been noticed by Polatzek, who spent three years in the Archipelago. If a Bird of Passage, then what are birds doing so late as the

middle of June, yet I am loath to believe it is a partial resident even in the eastern islands. Speculation is useless without further data, so I have provisionally included it amongst the Occasional Visitors.

Range. The Curlew breeds in northern and central Europe wintering in Africa south to the Cape, and in the Mediterranean basin.

Numenius phæopus phæopus. Whimbrel.

Scolopax phæopus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 146—Type locality: Sweden.

The Whimbrel must be considered a regular and numerous **Bird of Passage**, and to a lesser degree a **Winter Visitor**; a few individuals remain in the Archipelago during the summer.

Despite the assertion of Herr von Thanner, who says that "the Whimbrel breeds in Graciosa, the fishermen often finding their eggs" (Orn. Jahrb. 1913, p. 190), I find it difficult to accept this statement without much better proof. Undoubtedly Whimbrels are present in the islands throughout the year, and we have Meade-Waldo's evidence (Ibis, 1889, p. 4; 1893, p. 205) that "they may be seen in pairs at the beginning of June," but as yet no competent ornithologist has found the eggs. My own opinion is that the Whimbrel is a regular migrant in spring and autumn, and that finding the conditions favourable a few (possibly barren) birds, arriving from the south with the spring migration, remain in the islands during the summer months. Likewise, when the return migration takes place in autumn, a larger number of migrants remain in the islands, particularly in the eastern group, throughout the winter.

This would account for the following very variable reports which different naturalists have made concerning the Whimbrel in the Canary Archipelago.

Webb and Berthelot say "of accidental passage" (Orn. Canarienne, p. 37).

Bolle wrote in 1857, "killed in Canaria, well known on the coast of Fuerteventura, mostly though in autumn and winter" (J. f. O. 1857, p. 338).

Meade-Waldo wrote in 1893, "A regular and numerous visitor, especially so in the eastern islands. A few may be seen all the year round. Many arrive in August, and they may be seen in pairs at the beginning of June" (Ibis, 1893, p. 205). He noted them on 23 October in Tenerife, and paired on 30 March and 6 April in Fuerteventura (MS. diaries).

Cabrera in the same year said, "it is found all the year on the shore" (Catálogo, p. 57).

Polatzek, in Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 21 (under *N. arquata*), remarks à propos of von Thanner seeing an egg-shell, partly broken, supposed to belong to the Curlew (*N. a. arquata*), and to have been taken in Fuerteventura: "I had before conjectured that *N. phæopus* was a breeding bird in the Canary Islands." In a later part of the same paper Polatzek wrote: "Seen nearly all the year in suitable places, but up till now not authenticated as a breeding bird. I saw many in winter in Lanzarote, but they vanished after the middle of March" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 130).

Von Thanner in 1913 thought he had established the Whimbrel as a breeding bird, but his evidence is insufficient (*vide supra*).

My own field notes concerning this species are as follows:—

1911, 1912. Gran Canaria. Saw the Whimbrel in February near Maspalomas, on the rocky parts of this coast. A bird was shot on Las Palmas beach on 12 June, 1911, and a pair seen in 1912 on 1 June. They are often to be seen on the reef in Confital Bay (Ibis, 1912, p. 584).

1913. Eastern Group. Found the Whimbrel very plentiful in May and June, particularly numerous on the reefs at Toston (Fuerteventura) and on the N.W. coast of Graciosa (Ibis, 1914, p. 286).

I have a note that on 20 August, 1908, in lat. 31° 13′ N., long. 14° 25′ W., at sea, about 110 miles north of the Canary Islands, a Whimbrel flew twice round the SS. Goorkha, upon which I was returning from the Cape (MS. diaries).

Range. The Whimbrel breeds in northern Europe and winters in Africa ranging to the Cape, also in India and the Malay Peninsula.

Himantopus himantopus. Black-winged Stilt.

Charadrius himantopus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 151—Type locality : Egypt.

The Black-winged Stilt is a **Rare Visitor** which has been recorded by four writers, specimens having been actually handled by different ornithologists.

Webb and Berthelot mention it in their book as "of accidental passage" (Orn. Canarienne, p. 33).

Bolle wrote: "Shot in Canaria (Léon collection). Might possibly nest in this island, especially at Maspalomas in the deep marshes" (J. f. O. 1857, p. 337).

Meade-Waldo heard of one from Fuerteventura and had a picture of the bird sent to him (Ibis, 1893, p. 204).

I identified a stuffed specimen in 1913 in the Gonzalez collection in Arrecife which had been shot in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Black-winged Stilt breeds in southern Europe and through the greater part of Africa to the Cape, and as far east as Burma. It is migratory in the more northern parts of its range.

Recurvirostra avocetta. Avocet.

Recurvirostra avosetta Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 151—Type locality : Sweden.

The Avocet is a **Rare Visitor** to the Archipelago.

It is said to have been mentioned by Busto, an observer to whose work I have not had access.

The only specimen which came under my notice was a bird in the Gonzalez collection in Arrecife, which I identified for the owner. The bird had been shot in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Avocet breeds in Europe from Denmark to the Mediterranean, and also in Africa locally as far south as the Cape. In winter it extends as far east as China.

Charadrius apricarius. Golden Plover.

Charadrius apricarius Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 150—Type locality: Sweden.

I can only include the Golden Plover as a **Rare Visitor**, probably during migration. I do not believe it ever winters in the islands.

Webb and Berthelot mention it in their book as a bird of passage in winter (Orn. Canarienne, p. 33), and had probably observed it during the autumn migration.

Polatzek says "it seems to appear often" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 128), but gives no data and probably he is only quoting Webb and Berthelot's opinion (*supra*).

Cabrera obtained one on the coast of Tenerife at Punta del Hidalgo, and remarks that it is only found there in the spring (Catálogo, p. 56).

From the above records it seems hardly possible to include the Golden Plover as even an Occasional Visitor. Webb and Berthelot termed most birds of this class "Oiseaux de passage," irrespective of the number of times they had appeared in the Archipelago; moreover, these authors were the pioneers of ornithological work in the Canaries, and they had not the advantage of previous workers' experiences. It was only to be expected that in several cases they should form incorrect conclusions of a bird's status in the Archipelago, for instance, they believed the Kentish Plover to be only a "bird of passage in winter," whereas it is resident and breeding as well as migratory.

Being a wading bird of powerful flight the Golden Plover may later prove to be much more regular in its appearance than now seems to be the case.

Range. The Golden Plover breeds in northern and central Europe eastwards to the Yenesei. It winter it visits northern Africa and has also been recorded from the Azores.

Squatarola squatarola. Grey Plover.

Tringa squatarola Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 149—Type locality: Sweden.

The Grey Plover is a **Bird of Passage** and a **Winter Visitor** in small numbers to the Canary Islands.

It has been recorded by various observers on the following occasions, all very scattered records.

Dec. 1829.	Confital Bay, Gran Canaria (Webb and Berthelot, Orn. Canarienne, p. 34).
1 Nov. 1888.	Two shot near Orotava, Tenerife (Meade-Waldo, MS. note-books, et Ibis, 1889, p. 4).
22 Feb. 1912.	A flock of seven, Maspalomas, Gran Canaria, two obtained (Bannerman, Ibis, 1912, p. 580).
6–10 May, 1913.	A pair seen in beautiful breeding plumage, Toston, Fuerteventura (Bannerman, Ibis, 1914, p. 46).
27 May–7 June.	A small flock of immature birds, Isla Graciosa (Bannerman, Ibis, 1914, p. 71).
16 June, 1913.	One seen in the collection of Gonzalez in Arrecife, Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Meade-Waldo found it to be a regular winter visitor and remarked that "many winter in the eastern islands" (Ibis, 1893, p. 203).

Most observers, including Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 128), agree that it is a winter visitor, but Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 56) says "it lives nearly all the year on the shores of the island of Tenerife." A few immature or barren birds may possibly remain in the islands during the summer, but for the most part I believe the Grey Plover leaves the Archipelago in the late spring to return again in the autumn.

A few birds probably pass through the islands with the stream of migratory waders in spring and autumn.

Range. The Grey Plover breeds in the Arctic regions and in winter ranges to South Africa, southern Asia, Australia, and South America.

Ægialitis hiaticula hiaticula. Ringed Plover.

Charadrius hiaticula Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 150—Type locality: Sweden.

This is a regular Bird of Passage to all the islands, sometimes remaining for a period before passing on.

The birds are never very numerous and seem to arrive in small parties, which are chiefly on the move from the latter part of February to May, earlier arrivals being exceptional, caused by unusual weather conditions. None have been

known to breed in the islands. The return migration takes place in September, October, and November.

In the spring migration northwards the earliest date upon which I have noted the appearance in Gran Canaria is 10 January, 1911 (Ibis, 1912, p. 583); this, however, is an unusually early record, and these birds may have remained in the island since the autumn migration. The following year, when in this island during the whole of February, none were noticed until the 23rd of the month (*l. c.*).

Meade-Waldo found them in Fuerteventura on 31 March, 1888, and again on the 6th of April of the same year, when he remarks they were scarce (MS. diaries).

Polatzek records them as not rare in spring as a bird of passage (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 128).

I found a few Ringed Plovers on the reefs at Toston, Fuerteventura, as late as 6–10 May, 1913, but nowhere else on the coast (Ibis, 1914, pp. 46, 282).

The movement again takes place in the autumn, when Meade-Waldo noticed that the Ringed Plovers arrived regularly in the islands on their passage north (Ibis, 1893, p. 203). The earliest date which I have recorded is 5 September (1910), birds which were shot then in Gran Canaria being now in the British Museum (Ibis, 1912, p. 583).

Meade-Waldo noted them from 23–25 October at Orotava, Tenerife, and remarks that they were fairly common (MS. diaries).

Curiously enough, all the specimens which I have shot in the Canary Islands have been immature birds. I have come to the conclusion that the Ringed Plover which passes through the Canaries is the large race mentioned by Seebohm and which I recognize as distinct.

Range. The large typical race of the Ringed Plover breeds from arctic America to central Europe and winters from the Mediterranean basin to the Cape. Specimens have been examined by Dr. Lowe and myself from Greenland, Iceland, France, Portugal, Gibraltar, and the Canaries; they winter down the west African coast to the Cape.

Ægialitis dubius curonicus. Lesser Ringed Plover.

Charadrius curonicus Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 2, 1789, p. 692—Type locality: Curonia, *i. e.* Courland.

It is difficult to know exactly how to define the status of the Lesser Ringed Plover in the Canary Islands. From the present available data I can only consider it to be a **Rare Visitor** which has been known to breed. It is quite possible that it is a Bird of Passage in very small numbers, but until 1910 it had been entirely overlooked and had never been previously recorded by anyone!

The only bird which I have ever seen I shot on the 19th of January, 1910 (bill 13 mm., wing 117 mm.) in Gran Canaria, as it flew from the water-tanks beyond the golf-links—a very favourite place for small waders when the tide is up.

The following year (April 1911) Mr. P. R. Pittard found two eggs laid in a barranco more than a mile from the sea (close to where I had shot my bird in 1910), which he forwarded to me in England (Ibis, 1912, p. 582). There is no doubt whatever that they are the eggs of the Lesser Ringed Plover. They were identified by the Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain, and other oologists have since examined them and concur in the identification. This clutch is now in the British Museum.

Range. The Lesser Ringed Plover breeds in the greater part of Europe and Asia extending east to Japan, and is also said to be resident in, and to nest in, north-west Africa (B. O. U. List of Brit. Birds, 1915, p. 246) north of the Sahara. It winters in Africa and India and on the Sunda Islands (Miss Jackson and Hartert, Ibis, 1915, pp. 532–533).

Ægialitis alexandrina alexandrina. Kentish Plover.

Charadrius alexandrinus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 150—Type locality: Egypt.

The Kentish Plover is a **Partial Resident** in the Canary Islands.

Hab. in Archipelago.

Western Group: Gran Canaria, Tenerife, Palma, Gomera, Hierro.

Eastern Group: Fuerteventura, Lanzarote.

Outer islets: Graciosa.

Obs. Many birds remain in the Archipelago throughout the year and breed in numbers along the shores, especially in the eastern islands. It is very difficult to estimate the amount of migration which takes place, but being a wading bird of very wide distribution and ranging south as far as Cape Town, the island birds are almost sure to have their numbers augmented by birds of passage. It is particularly numerous on the shores of the eastern islands.

Although most early writers mention the Kentish Plover in their accounts of the ornis of the islands, none make any allusion to migratory movements of this species, which I believe to take place both in the spring and in the autumn.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

The typical form of the Kentish Plover breeds in Europe from the southern coasts of England, south Sweden, Denmark, and Rügen, to the Mediterranean, Azores, Canary Islands, Madeira, and Cape Verde Islands, in North Africa as far as the salt swamps of the northern Sahara (Bledet-ahmar, south of Touggourt), absent from north Russia but throughout central Asia to Korea (Miss Jackson and Hartert), ranging in Africa as far as the Cape in winter, also to India and east to Borneo and Japan.

Eudromias morinellus. Dotterel.

Charadrius morinellus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 150—Type locality: Sweden.

This is a **Rare Visitor** to the Archipelago which has not been reported for many years.

Meade-Waldo mentions it from personal observation between 1887–91 as an occasional visitor in flocks to the Laguna plains in Tenerife (Ibis, 1893, p. 203): he says he saw flocks of Dotterels one day close to the road just outside

Laguna (Ibis, 1889, p. 515). The date is not mentioned in either 'The Ibis' or his MS. diaries.

Cabrera also includes it in his list and says he obtained a specimen in the summer* [en verano] in the neighbourhood of Laguna (Catálogo, p. 56). Meade-Waldo examined this bird on 2 December, 1888 (MS. diaries).

Range. The Dotterel breeds in northern Europe and Siberia, in the rest of Europe it is a bird of passage, and in winter migrates to northern Africa, Syria and Persia. The Canary Islands are probably the limit of the southern range reached by this species. In the east it has wandered to Japan.

Vanellus vanellus. Lapwing.

Tringa vanellus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 148—Type locality : Sweden.

The Lapwing is a **Winter Visitor** and regular **Bird of Passage.**

This bird is first recorded by Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, p. 34), who considered that it only appeared in winter after strong south and south-east winds, and mention a specimen killed in Tenerife in 1830. Most modern authors agree that the Peewit is a regular Winter Visitor, but of late years it has become less plentiful, and in Gran Canaria is now seldom met with. In fact I have only seen one bird in this island during the many winter months which I have spent there (Ibis, 1912, p. 580). Bolle records "numerous flocks in winter in Gran Canaria" (J. f. O. 1857, p. 337), but that is not so now.

In Tenerife Meade-Waldo found it a regular winter visitor, occasionally in large flocks (Ibis, 1893, p. 203).

Von Thanner wrote concerning the bird in this island: "It is a regular bird of passage. In the spring of 1901 there was such a continuous heavy rain that the ditches of the Laguna Plain were flooded and formed lakes—this

* There may be some mistake about the time of year when this example was obtained, unless perchance the bird from sickness or some other cause had to remain behind when the rest of the flock had left for their northern breeding grounds.

district with its reeds attracted many Peewits ('Kiebitze'). Examples appear every year, but only in such numbers after a particularly wet year when the conditions are so suitable to them" (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431).

Cabrera likewise says it is a migratory species common in the winter, and that he possessed various specimens from Tenerife (Catálogo, p. 56).

The Lapwing has often been observed in the eastern islands. Bolle says: "In winter a well-known visitor in Fuerteventura, where it is sometimes seen in great numbers" (J. f. O. 1855, p. 176).

Meade-Waldo, who visited all the islands, writes: "I have seen it myself only in Tenerife and Fuerteventura." He shot a Lapwing in the latter island on the 12th of March, 1889 (Ibis, 1889, p. 509).

Polatzek, who lived in the eastern group, says: "A passing migrant and winter visitor. I observed it on the sparse grass-growth of the mountains in the eastern islands" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 128).

Von Thanner records it from Tenerife as a Regular Bird of Passage (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431).

The Lapwing certainly visits Lanzarote also. I found a stuffed specimen in Gonzalez's locally-made collection at Arrecife in that island (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Lapwing breeds in Europe and in Asia to Japan, and sparingly in Morocco. It winters in southern Europe and in northern Africa, ranging eastwards to south China.

Pluvianus ægyptius. Egyptian Plover.

Charadrius ægyptius Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 254 —Type locality: Egypt.

A **Rare Visitor.**

There is only one record of this species occurring in the Canary Islands. Cabrera possessed one which was shot in the neighbourhood of Laguna, Tenerife. The bird was in his collection (Catálogo, p. 56).

There seems to be no reason to doubt this record as genuine.

Range. The Egyptian Plover inhabits the greater part of west Africa, extending from the Coanza river to Senegal and across north-east Africa to Egypt.

Arenaria interpres interpres. Turnstone.

Tringa interpres Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 148—Type locality: Sweden.

The Turnstone is a **Bird of Passage** and a **Winter Visitor** in large numbers to the islands; many individual birds remain throughout the summer.

It is one of the commonest waders, excepting perhaps the Kentish Plover, to be found in the Archipelago, those which remain during the summer months doubtless being immature or non-breeding birds.

When in the eastern islands in May and June, 1913, I constantly met with large and small flocks all round the coasts of Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, and Graciosa. Some few birds were in full breeding-plumage, but those which I dissected had the testes undeveloped (Ibis, 1914, p. 284).

Von Thanner believes the Turnstone to be a regular Bird of Passage (Nov. Zool. xi. 1904, p. 431), but I do not know from his notes whether he considers it passes through the Archipelago at both the spring and autumn migration seasons. Its numbers are certainly greatly augmented in the winter: occasionally I have seen very large flocks in Gran Canaria in January and February, and once on the 27th of January I watched an enormous flock of over a hundred birds on the reefs in Confital Bay (Ibis, 1912, p. 580).

Polatzek met with it frequently on the shore and notably in the eastern islands (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 128).

Godman stated (Ibis, 1872, p. 221) that the Turnstone undoubtedly bred in Flores in the Azores, and I am sorry to say I quoted this statement in my "Birds of Gran Canaria" (Ibis, 1912, p. 581) without further question. I do not know what evidence Godman had when he wrote this, but I cannot believe that the Turnstone has ever bred in any of the Atlantic islands without having very definite proof. Certainly Bolle, in 1852 and 1856, believed that such a thing

was possible in the Canaries, for he wrote of this bird : "It is a constant shore dweller in Fuerteventura and Canaria. On the south coast at Maspalomas I have seen them in spring in pairs, and am almost certain they breed there" (J. f. O. 1857, p. 337). Bolle visited Maspalomas in May. Undoubtedly Turnstones may be seen in pairs in June. Von Thanner mentions shooting two birds, "out of several pairs on the 14th June in Tenerife" (Orn. Jahrb. xvi. 1905, p. 212), but the same thing may be witnessed in the British Isles where, to quote the latest B. O. U. List, p. 251, "A good many birds in breeding-plumage, sometimes in pairs, remain throughout the summer, but have never been proved to nest, even in the Shetland Isles."

The islanders certainly believe they breed in the Canaries. In this connection Meade-Waldo wrote (Ibis, 1893, p. 204) : ". . . many spend the summer . . . and though I have seen them in pairs in June, I could not see that they were nesting : the peasants assured me that they did nest."

Range. The Turnstone breeds in Greenland and Iceland, probably in all the islands in the Arctic Ocean, and in northern Europe. It has an enormous range in winter, visiting all the five continents besides Oceania.

Family Laridæ.

Larus canus canus. Common Gull.

Larus canus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 136—Type locality : Sweden.

A **Rare Visitor.**

The Common Gull has only been recorded from the Canary Islands by Meade-Waldo (Ibis, 1893, p. 206), who saw but two of this species, probably in Tenerife. He does not mention the date, but doubtless they appeared during the winter months.

Range. The Common Gull breeds in northern Europe and Asia, and in winter visits north Africa and the Mediterranean countries, reaching China and Japan on the Pacific side.

Larus marinus. Greater Black-backed Gull.

Larus marinus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 136—Type locality : Sweden.

The Greater Black-backed Gull can only be considered a **Rare Visitor** at the present day.

That it used to be a resident breeding-bird prior to 1857 is vouched for by Webb and Berthelot *, and also Bolle.

This Gull is first recorded from Tenerife by Ledru in 1810. Next Webb and Berthelot, who were in the islands in 1828–1830, gave the following account of it in the Canary Islands :—

"*Hab.* Dans l'île d'Alegranza.

"*Obs.* Cet oiseau n'habite que l'Île d'Alegranza, ou il est assez commun. On va le chasser toutes les années pour avoir son duvet, qu'on expédie à Londres où on le vend comme de l'édredon. Ce Goëland niche dans les cavités des rochers qui bordent la côte ; il defend les approches de son nid en volant contre le chasseur, qu'il tâche de repousser par ses cris et en le frappant de ses ailes. Il pond trois ou quatre œufs assez gros, gris-jaunâtre ou olivâtre-clair, avec des marbrures d'un gris foncé et d'un brun noir . . . ." etc. (Orn. Canarienne, p. 42).

Bolle bears out the above statement, stating that the owner of the island (Allegranza) draws a considerable revenue from these birds on account of their down (J. f. O. 1855, p. 177), and later he wrote : "It is said of them †—and I was an

* Webb and Berthelot did not confuse the Greater Black-backed Gull with the large Shearwater which breeds in hundreds on Allegranza. They give an account of this bird also (Orn. Canarienne, p. 43).

† It has been suggested that through a printer's error Bolle's notes should refer to the Shearwater (*Puffinus kuhli fortunatus*), which is such a source of revenue to the owner of Allegranza at the present day. But if this is so, why does Bolle, *who personally visited the island*, say that they "defend their nest and *eggs* . . . . by flapping their wings." The Shearwater only lays *one* egg, and as I can personally vouch for, never "flaps its wings" in defence of its nesting-hole. Bolle was too careful an ornithologist to have mistaken a Shearwater for a Greater Black-backed Gull. Moreover, Bolle gives a long and accurate account of this Shearwater in both his papers, J. f. O. 1855, p. 177, 1857, p. 344.

eye-witness of this at Allegranza—that they defend their nest and eggs from those who would rob them by powerfully flapping their wings" (J. f. O. 1857, p. 341).

Neither Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 66) nor Godman (Ibis, 1872, p. 223) seem to have met with the bird themselves, but quote former writers. Godman definitely states that he did not meet with it, but he did not visit the eastern islands.

The most accurate information is that given by Meade-Waldo, who between the years 1887 and 1891 found it "much scarcer than the Lesser Black-backed Gull" (Ibis, 1893, p. 206).

Polatzek only once saw two Gulls which might have belonged to this species (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 23).

When I visited the eastern islands in May and June 1913, a special search was made for this Gull. I visited personally Fuerteventura, Lanzarote, Graciosa, and Montaña Clara, spending over a week on each of the smaller islands. Moreover, I landed on the West Rock and sent my taxidermist (Mr. A. H. Bishop) for a week to Allegranza, where he made enquiries about this Gull without gaining any information whatsoever (Ibis, 1914, p. 85). Neither of us saw a single specimen in any of the islands. Stress of weather prevented our landing on the East Rock, but I came to the conclusion that *Larus marinus* must long since have ceased to supply the owner of Allegranza "with a considerable revenue"! (Ibis, 1914, p. 289).

Range. The Greater Black-backed Gull breeds in Europe as far south as about lat. 50° N. (on the north-west coast of France), also in north America. In winter it occasionally visits the Mediterranean and has wandered to the Azores and Canaries, and on the American side reaches the Bermudas.

Larus argentatus cachinnans. Yellow-legged Herring-Gull.

Larus cachinnans Pallas, Zoogr. Rosso-Asiat. ii. 1827, p. 318—Type locality: S.E. Russia.

This Gull is a **Partial Resident.**

Hab. in Archipelago.

Western Group. } The coasts of all the islands, prin-
Eastern Group. } cipally breeding on Roque del Este
Outer islets. } and Anaga rocks.

The status of this Herring-Gull in the Canary Islands has not much changed since Meade-Waldo wrote (Ibis, 1893, p. 206): "This is the common resident Gull. It breeds in all the islands." I question however whether it now breeds in all the islands.

Bolle is evidently referring to this species (J. f. O. 1857, p. 341) under *Larus argentatus*, where he notes that it is frequent around Canaria, and breeds under the bushes of the dunes of Maspalomas, and can nearly always be seen sitting on the boards and barrels in the harbour of Santa Cruz.

I have included it as a partial resident as its numbers are certainly augmented in the winter, and the birds which breed in the Archipelago probably range far afield.

Range beyond the Archipelago.

The Yellow-legged Herring-Gull is the common Gull of the Mediterranean, Black and Caspian Seas, ranging east to Lake Baikal. It breeds in all the north Atlantic islands. In winter it ranges down the west coast of Africa to Senegambia, and according to the B. O. U. List (p. 253) apparently reaches Angola.

Larus fuscus fuscus. Continental Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Larus fuscus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 136—Type locality: Sweden.

A **Rare Visitor.**

As might be expected the Eastern (dark-backed) race of the Lesser Black-backed Gull is a very rare straggler to the Canarian seas.

Meade-Waldo shot a single example at Orotava in Tenerife on 21 January, 1888. The skin is now in the British Museum. In his List (Ibis, 1893, p. 206), his note "there are generally a few of these gulls about in winter" obviously refers to *Larus fuscus affinis.*

Range. L. f. fuscus breeds in Scandinavia eastwards. In winter it visits the eastern Mediterranean ranging to the head of the Persian Gulf.

Mr. P. R. Lowe (Bull. B. O. C. vol. xxix. p. 120) suggests that it migrates southwards across Europe, possibly by way of the rivers Vistula and Dnieper, to winter in the eastern Mediterranean, Egypt, and the Red Sea.

Larus fuscus affinis. British Lesser Black-backed Gull.

Larus affinis Reinhardt, Vidensk. Meddel. Kjöbenhavn for 1853, 1854, p. 78—Type locality: Greenland.

A **Winter Visitor** to the Canary Islands. It may also prove to be a Bird of Passage in small numbers.

The Lesser Black-backed Gull (undoubtedly the above subspecies) has been recorded by old writers, such as Busto, Ledru, and Serra, from the islands.

Cabrera believed it to be a Bird of Passage, common in winter (Catálogo, p. 66).

According to Meade-Waldo there are a few about in winter (Ibis, 1893, p. 206, et 1889, p. 12), while Polatzek considers it "frequent in the winter" (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 133), his remarks doubtless referring to the Gull in the eastern islands, while Meade-Waldo's notes refer mostly to the western islands.

Miss Annie Jackson wrote to me that she had seen this Gull at Orotava on the 1st of April, doubtless one of the birds which had wintered farther south on the west coast returning north to breed. Whether these West African birds pass through the Archipelago regularly we have not enough evidence to show.

When I wrote my paper on the Birds of Gran Canaria (Ibis, 1912, p. 575), I thought that this Gull would very probably be found to breed in the Archipelago. It seems, however, to be only a winter visitor and possibly a rare bird of passage. In February 1912 I saw a number of these birds in Las Palmas harbour, both adult and immature; they used to roost in the cliffs beyond Confital Bay and were still present on March 11, when I left the

island*. I was again in Gran Canaria on the 1st of June, but all the Gulls had disappeared. I then imagined that they had resorted to the outer islets to breed, but I proved this supposition to be unfounded in June 1913, when I visited all the outer islets and the large islands of the eastern group excepting the East Rock. I did not find this Gull anywhere during the six weeks I spent in May and June, though constantly on the coasts and on the look out for it (Ibis, 1914, p. 288).

The question as to whether this Gull was indeed *Larus fuscus affinis*, was entered into in 'The Ibis,' 1912, pp. 575, 576, et Bull. B. O. C. xxix. p. 121. Now, thanks to Mr. H. F. Witherby, we are able to state that, at any rate, some of the birds which breed in Great Britain visit the Canary Archipelago in winter—as we have conclusive evidence in two cases which I have already reported (Ibis, 1914, p. 288).

(*a*) Lesser Black-backed Gull marked as a nestling (No. 33,912) on August 2, 1913, at the Farne Islands, recovered off Cape Juby on November 13, 1913, by schooner 'Luz.'

(*b*) Another bird ringed on the same day at the Farne Islands, shot in Lanzarote on January 5, 1914.

Range. The British Lesser Black-backed Gull breeds on the western coasts and islands of Europe, probably as far as Spain, also on Alboran island off Morocco. It winters in the western Mediterranean, in the Azores and Madeira group, and West Africa to the Gold Coast, while it has even been reported as far south as Bonny in southern Nigeria (Saunders).

Larus ridibundus. Black-headed Gull.

Larus ridibundus Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 225 —Type locality: England.

An **Occasional Visitor** which appears in fair numbers on rare occasions.

According to Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 66) and Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 133), neither of whom had seen the

* Three were obtained—the skins are in the British Museum.

bird personally, the Black-headed Gull is mentioned first by Serra (whose account published in the 'Revista de Canarias' between 1879 and 1882 I have not seen) as an occasional though rare visitor.

Other ornithologists do not appear to have met with the species until I saw it myself in the islands. I first met with *L. ridibundus* on the 20th of February, 1911, when numbers of them visited Las Palmas harbour and remained until the end of the month. All seemed to be immature birds, and the three * which I shot appeared to be in their second year. I did not see a single fully adult bird (Ibis, 1912, p. 577).

I next saw this species in Lanzarote ; here I identified an adult bird in full breeding-plumage with entire brown head, which had been obtained by Don Gonzalez y Gonzalez in or near Arrecife harbour. I could not ascertain the date when it had been shot (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Range. The Black-headed Gull breeds in Europe generally southwards to the Mediterranean, and through temperate Asia. It has an extensive winter range, visiting north Africa, extending eastwards through India and China to Japan.

Rissa tridactyla tridactyla. Kittiwake.

Larus tridactylus Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 136 —Type locality : Great Britain.

An **Occasional Visitor** in winter.

The Kittiwake is not often seen in Canarian waters at the present day. Godman was quite wrong when he wrote (Ibis, 1872, p. 222) : "Both this and the following Gull [*Larus fuscus*] probably breed about the coasts in Teneriffe," adding, possibly correctly, "I saw either this species or *L. canus* in the middle of May in Teneriffe, though I failed to secure specimens." Meade-Waldo saw "very few of these gulls" during his travels amongst the islands (Ibis, 1893, p. 206) ; and certainly, if, as Bolle affirms (J. f. O. 1857,

* Skins in the British Museum.

p. 341), they appeared around the Canaries every winter, they can no longer be considered regular winter visitors.

Cabrera records the Kittiwake in his list (Catálogo, p. 66) as an accidental migrant. It was seen off the island of Palma by Koenig (J. f. O. 1890, p. 487).

In the eastern group I saw a stuffed example in the Gonzalez collection at Arrecife, without any data, except that it had been obtained locally (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Looking through Mr. P. R. Lowe's MS. note-books which he has been good enough to lend me, I see that he noted Kittiwakes when sixty miles north of Las Palmas, within sight of land, on the 7th of January, 1906, and later that more were seen on the 2nd of January, "and followed the yacht from Las Palmas," I presume in a southerly direction (unpublished MS.).

Range. In the Atlantic Ocean the Kittiwake breeds in the arctic and subarctic regions, also in the north-west of France. In winter it visits the Mediterranean and Azores, extending south of the Canaries to Senegal, which is probably the southern extent of its winter range on the African side of the Atlantic.

Sterna hirundo. Common Tern.

Sterna hirundo Linn. Syst. Nat. 10th ed. 1758, p. 137—Type locality: Sweden.

The Common Tern is a **Summer Visitor** to the islands.

It used to breed in large colonies in Gran Canaria and in Fuerteventura, but of late years has, I fear, practically ceased to do so. It may still nest on some of the isolated rocks off Tenerife, on the top of which, according to Meade-Waldo, it used in 1891 to lay its eggs (Ibis, 1893, p. 206). Cabrera had both skins and eggs in his collection, and considered it to be a resident (Catálogo, p. 67).

Sterna hirundo is first mentioned from the islands by Ledru, who found it in Tenerife in 1810 (Voyage aux isles de Teneriffe etc.). Next it is referred to by Webb and Berthelot in 1841, who give as its habitat "the islands which are nearest to Africa," *i. e.* the eastern group. They

add that it turns up from time to time in the western islands, but is extremely common in Fuerteventura and Lanzarote (Orn. Canarienne, p. 42).

From Bolle (J. f. O. 1855, p. 177) we learn that *S. hirundo* are observed on the coast of Fuerteventura and Lanzarote, seldom on the western islands, but in this he was mistaken, for in 1857 he published a really good account of the breeding grounds of this Tern at Maspalomas in Gran Canaria, to which further reference should be made (J. f. O. 1857, pp. 341–344). Bolle here says that his visit took place in May, and he further mentions "an extraordinary big colony at Corralejo in Fuerteventura" (*l. c.* p. 343).

Meade-Waldo was of opinion that the Common Tern (between 1887 and 1891) was a summer visitor to all the islands, the birds spending the winter in the eastern islands (Ibis, 1893, p. 206). The latter part of this statement is not borne out by Polatzek's observations, who wrote (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 22) :—"The Tern comes in spring and leaves in autumn, and breeds or has bred in Tenerife and Gran Canaria." On April 10, 1905, Polatzek visited the Maspalomas breeding-ground but saw no Terns, and concluded that they had not yet arrived from their winter quarters. So far as I could learn, when I visited Maspalomas in February 1912, the Terns had quite ceased to breed in the district (Ibis, 1912, p. 577), and this can only be due to the systematic way in which the short-sighted natives plundered their nests, for the district has apparently not changed a whit since Bolle's day.

When I last visited the eastern islands in May and June in 1913, our route took us close to Corralejo, but we saw nothing of the colony which Bolle mentions, nor did we meet with Terns in any of the large or small islands—almost conclusive proof that they have ceased to breed there. The fishermen knew the "Garajao" well, and it is probable that it is *S. hirundo*, which according to their statements visits the islands in summer when the "sardinas" are plentiful (Ibis, 1914, p. 286). I saw a stuffed example in Lanzarote in the Gonzalez collection from that island (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

Von Thanner did not meet with it in Fuerteventura in March 1904, when he visited the island (Orn. Jahrb. 1905, p. 65). In a later paper he notes that it formerly occurred in Gran Canaria, but he did not meet with it himself in February 1909, when he visited its old breeding-grounds (Orn. Jahrb. 1910, p. 99).

Range. The Common Tern breeds in Europe from Norway to the Mediterranean, also in the Azores and islands of the Madeira group, as well as in north Africa and in parts of Asia. In winter it visits Africa as far as the Cape, also South America.

Sterna minuta minuta. Little Tern.

Sterna minuta Linn. Syst. Nat. 12th ed. 1766, p. 228—Type locality: S. Europe.

The Little Tern is an **Occasional Visitor.**

It has been mentioned by several writers including Ledru in 1810 from Tenerife, from which island it was recorded by Godman (Ibis, 1872, p. 222).

Webb and Berthelot say it frequented the eastern part of the Archipelago (Orn. Canarienne, p. 42), and this is borne out by Cabrera (Catálogo, p. 67), Bolle (J. f. O. 1855, p. 177), and Polatzek (Orn. Jahrb. 1909, p. 133), who note that it is often observed in the eastern islands. I did not see it myself in May or June, when I visited this part of the Archipelago in 1913.

Range. The Little Tern breeds in Europe generally and in Asia and north Africa from Morocco to Egypt. In winter it visits the west coast of Africa ranging to the Cape, extending in the east to Burma and Java.

Sterna sandvicensis sandvicensis. Sandwich Tern.

Sterna sandvicensis Latham, Gen. Synop. Suppl. i. 1787, p. 296—Type locality: England.

The Sandwich Tern is an **Occasional Visitor** in winter.

It is possible that this Tern may regularly visit the Canary Archipelago on migration, but proof of this is wanting and rests solely on the word of fishermen, who say that it is to be seen every February in Gran Canaria harbour. In 1911

Sandwich Terns certainly turned up in the Puerto de la Luz, and three birds were obtained on the 28th of February, all in full winter plumage, which went with my collection to the British Museum (Ibis, 1912, p. 578). Meade-Waldo saw flocks of this species off Fuerteventura (Ibis, 1893, p. 206), and Webb and Berthelot (Orn. Canarienne, 1841, p. 41) give Lanzarote and Fuerteventura as its "habitat." I identified a bird in the Gonzalez collection which had been shot near Arrecife in Lanzarote (Ibis, 1914, p. 63).

I do not think *S. sandvicensis* breeds anywhere in the Archipelago, and the statement to this effect in the B. O. U. List of Birds, 1915, p. 268, is without foundation, and was doubtless taken from Webb and Berthelot's book (*supra*), which is long out of date.

Range. The Sandwich Tern breeds in Europe and is not known to nest south of Tunisia on the eastern side of the Atlantic. In winter it follows the west coast of Africa down to the Cape of Good Hope and round to Natal.

[To be continued.]

XXXIII.—*Obituary.*

Sir William Macgregor.

It is with great regret that we notice the death of the Rt. Hon. Sir William Macgregor, G.C.M.G., which occurred at Aberdeen on 2 July last. He was 72 years of age.

In Sir William Macgregor not only has the Empire lost a great colonial administrator but a most learned man in all branches of natural history and an explorer and geographer of great note. The son of an Aberdeenshire farmer, he was educated for the medical profession, and, like Cecil Rhodes, in order to save his life, accepted the post of medical officer at Seychelles, subsequently being promoted to Mauritius and Fiji.

Having acted for a time as High Commissioner of the Western Pacific, he was in 1881 appointed Administrator of British New Guinea, declaring Queen Victoria's sovereignty over the territory in September. He spent over